



CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCALL

V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

A.C.N. Gully, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Clerk to Medical Officer

Miss Y. Michael, M.A.

Health Visitor

Miss D. Collingham, H.V., S.R.N., S.C.M.
(resigned 20.9.67)

District Nurse

Miss G. Johnston, S.R.N.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

and

HOUSING COMMITTEE

The whole Council

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To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1967.

This is the twentieth Annual Report I have prepared for the Council. I doubt if 1967 will be remembered for this fact but it will be remembered by many as the year when the roads were constantly excavated for one reason or another. The activities of the Gas Board has left North Street looking as though a prehistoric monster has plodded a weary way out of the town.

It was a healthy year and only a few cases of Measles were notified.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The Registrar General gives the estimated mid-year population for 1967 as 4,560. This gives a population density of 3.5 per acre. The product of penny rate is £680 and the rateable value £179,797. All these figures show an increase on the previous year.

Birth Rate The corrected Birth Rate for 1967 was 18.27 as compared with the national average of 17.2 per thousand population. There were seven illegitimate births which means that one in every ten children born in the Urban District during 1967 had no legal father.

Death Rate The corrected Death Rate for the year was 14.01 compared with the national figure of 11.2 per thousand population. The detailed causes of death are given in Appendix A, Table 3 and reference to this table shows that heart disease again tops the list of causes of death, being responsible for twenty-two. The tremendous amount of research into heart disease is evidenced by the spate of heart transplant operations which followed the original one carried out in South Africa.

In an effort to reduce the number of lives lost due to motor accidents, the Minister of Transport introduced legislation in October to control the amount of alcohol a driver is permitted to consume. So far the figures seem to show that the Act is having the desired effect. Another contributory factor to the motor accidents which does not seem to be considered seriously enough is eyesight. It seems now that driving licences are issued for a three-year period that the application should be accompanied by a Certificate showing that the applicant can, in fact, see the statutory distance. There are a large number of drivers on our roads today who are unable to see sufficiently clearly for safe driving. In addition persons who have perfectly normal visual acuity may have very poor night vision and they should be aware of this fact. They should also be aware if they have a defect of colour vision. The motor car has brought great benefit to man but, at the same time has changed the pattern of his life considerably. Now we tend to use our cars for every journey no matter how short, frequently moving from shop to shop rather than walk. This increasing lack of exercise undoubtedly has an adverse effect on health.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths in 1967.

Stillbirths There were no stillbirths in the town during 1967.

Infant Mortality One child died, due to bronchial pneumonia, at the age of one month.

Social Habits The difficult conditions obtaining in the second half of 1966 continued into the New Year and the measures taken to improve the economy began to bite. Despite the wage freeze the cost of living continued to rise.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Somerset County Council are the local health authority and provide and administer the local health services in the Urban District.

The child welfare clinic continued to be held twice a month for routine annual inspections and other consultations and one session a month was devoted to immunisation procedures. Both were well supported.

I carried out my usual medical inspections of the schools, details of which are shown in Appendix B, Table 2, and following these inspections reported on the abnormal number of obese children, particularly girls. This got some national publicity and encouraged the girls to take active steps to control their weight. I was pleased to hear also that some parents joined in the exercise to their mutual benefit.

Following the inspection of the Infants' School I reported adversely on the sanitary accommodation and the County are carrying out some gradual improvements.

In September our health visitor resigned and the County Council experienced difficulty in finding a replacement and part-time help had to be used. There was no falling-off in the clinic attendances during this period which indicates that this help was effective.

A speech therapist attends the clinic one half day a week. There is a fairly considerable demand for this treatment and there was a waiting list.

In April the County Welfare Department opened Ramus House for the use of old people. The original Georgian house was adapted for communal use and a purpose-built wing was added with bedroom accommodation consisting of twenty-two single and three double bedrooms. Unfortunately by the end of the year the foundations of the new wing were causing trouble.

SECTION C

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

Details of infectious diseases notified to me during 1967 are shown in Appendix C, Table 1. The only ones notified were ten cases of Measles.

Routine immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, using Trivax vaccine, continued in the clinic and was also given by the general practitioners. Oral poliomyelitis vaccine was administered at the same time. Vaccination against smallpox continued. Details of these procedures are not available this year. The County Council Health Department are anxious to administer all immunisations with the help of a computer now installed in County Hall and at the end of 1967 the gradual change-over process was taking place in other parts of the County. It is hoped that the Crewkerne practitioners will join in the scheme in due course.

I carried out my B.C.G. vaccination programme against tuberculosis in the Spring. Children born in 1956 were those offered vaccination. At the Crewkerne Secondary Modern School I vaccinated seventy-five children and two were found to be positive to the skin test. At the Grammar School I vaccinated thirty-two and one was positive to the skin test. The children with positive skin reactions were referred to the chest physician for investigation.

Arrangements for the examination of cervical smears for early detection of cancer of the cervix came into operation in 1967. All general practitioners were asked to undertake this work and where they indicated that they did not wish to do so the County Council made alternative arrangements. The residents of the Urban District are examined at Yeovil.

The Mass Radiography Service visited the town and details of the visit are shown in Appendix C, Table 2. No active tuberculosis was discovered but three cases of healed tuberculosis were detected and a certain number of other abnormalities were reported to the private practitioners concerned. I am pleased to say that the number attending increased on the previous visit.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions 1967 was an average year with no particularly severe weather.

Water Supply The water supply from the Wessex Water Board was generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year. I received reports from their laboratory on fourteen samples examined for bacteriological purity. All were satisfactory and three samples were submitted for physical and chemical analysis which were also satisfactory.

There are 1,752 houses in the Urban District on a mains supply and only two are supplied by means of standpipes outside the buildings.

The Wessex Water Board supply is not fluoridated.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Samples of the effluent taken from the works were satisfactory with one exception. This sample was taken shortly after flood conditions which were probably responsible for the result. Preliminary plans have been prepared for the extension of the existing sewerage works. There are still two houses in the Urban District without flush lavatories, one house has a pail closet and the other a chemical closet.

Public Cleansing Using direct labour and one vehicle the Council gives a weekly refuse collection. There is one Tip in operation which is controlled after partial incineration. The size of the Tip was increased by piping in a stream and it is estimated that the life of the Tip has now been prolonged for approximately twelve years.

Public Conveniences The public conveniences in Church Street and in the West Street car park were kept in excellent condition despite increased use due to the greater number of holidaymakers on the road.

Rodent Control The Council share a rodent operator with the Borough of Chard and Urban District of Ilminster. He is employed in Crewkerne for one week each month but can deal with emergencies in any part of his area by special request. This arrangement works satisfactorily.

Swimming Baths The baths at the Crewkerne Secondary and Grammar schools are operated in accordance with instructions laid down by the County Council. The third bath is operated and maintained by a private school in the town.

Nuisances Complaints of nuisance received by the Public Health Inspector varied considerably, often depending on the time of year. Many concerned housing and complaints were received of smell due to certain trade activities, and noise. These complaints received prompt attention, although the solution was not always easy to achieve.

B. Factories Act

Details of the inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector are shown in Appendix D, Table 1.

C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

There are eighty-four premises registered under this Act and a number of general inspections were carried out, often in conjunction with visits for other purposes. It has not been possible to carry out a complete survey yet under these Regulations.

D. Housing

The details given in Appendix D, Table 2 are very full indeed and obviously comment cannot be made on every aspect of them. The Council built twenty houses during the year and twenty-eight were in the course of construction, while private builders completed thirty and a further sixteen were in the course of erection. There were 109 applicants, twenty-eight of these were for old peoples' dwellings. Of the remainder it was considered that only six were urgent. It is hoped to build eight units of accommodation for old persons and another eight houses for general need during 1968/69.

The increasing cost of Council houses make many persons living in sub-standard property hesitate to apply for re-housing. In fact, it is probable if some of them were offered new Council houses they would be forced to decline the offer for financial reasons.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk All milk sampling is carried out by the County Health Department. Apart from the keeping quality, milk samples are examined for the presence of brucella abortus. No positive samples were reported.

Ice Cream There are fifteen premises registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream. Ten samples were taken during 1967, and all were placed in Grade 1.

Meat There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the town and therefore no routine meat inspection is carried out. The Public Health Inspector was called upon from time to time to condemn tinned meat which had been damaged in transit.

There are no poultry processing establishments either.

Food Hygiene Regulations There are five premises subject to these Regulations in the town. No statutory action was necessary but informal notices were issued in order to bring one of the premises up to a satisfactory standard.

4,560
1,756
£179,797
£680
1,291 acres

BIRTH RATE	18.27	Comparability Factor		1.21
		M	F	
Live Births	Total	34	35	
	Legitimate	30	32	
	Illegitimate	4	3	
Stillbirths	Total	-	-	
	Legitimate	-	-	
	Illegitimate	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	-	1	
	Legitimate	-	1	
	Illegitimate	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	Total	-	-	
	Legitimate	-	-	
	Illegitimate	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	-	-	
	Legitimate	-	-	
	Illegitimate	-	-	

APPENDIX A TABLE 3

DEATH RATE 14.01			Comparability Factor 0.91										
	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	M F	4 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	2 -	- -
Cancer of Breast	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Cancer of other Sites	M F	5 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 1	2 1	1 1
Leukaemia, Aleu- kaemia	M F	2 1	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M F	4 9	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 3	1 6
Coronary Disease, Angina	M F	9 8	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	4 4	4 3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -
Other Heart Disease	M F	1 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 3
Other Circulatory Disease	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1
Pneumonia	M F	3 1	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3 -
Bronchitis	M F	4 2	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 1	2 -
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
Congenital Mal- formations	M F	2 -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -
Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases	M F	- 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	- 1
TOTAL ALL CASES	M F	37 33	- -	- 1	- -	2 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	8 4	15 12	12 15

APPENDIX B TABLE 1

Crewkerne Child Welfare
Clinic

1. No. of children on register who attended during 1967				
Born in 1967	...	...	...	76
Born in 1966	...	...	...	58
Born in 1962-65	...	...	...	98
Total attenders in 1967	...	...	...	232
2. No. of children entered in register for 1967 who have never attended a clinic before				
Under 1 yr. at time of first attendance	...			76
Over 1 yr. " " " " "	...			5
Total no. attending	...			81
3. No. of attendances made by children in 1967 who at time of attendance were				
Under 1	...	...	...	873
Aged 1-2	...	...	...	167
Aged 2-3	...	...	...	104
Total attendance	...	...	...	1144
Total sessions during year	...	...	...	36
Average no. of attendances per session	...	...	...	32
4. No. of children on register who				
(a) Saw doctor at least once for consultation during year				231
(b) Only saw doctor for immunisation during year				
(c) Did not see doctor at all during year				1
Total attenders	...	...	...	232
5. Total no. of medical consultations during year	...			272
No. of doctor's sessions during 1967	...			36
Average no. of consultations per session	...			7.5
6. Immunisations	<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>Reinforcing Courses</u>		
Diphtheria	-	-		
Diphtheria/Pertussis	-	-		
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	-		
Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus	80	21		
Tetanus	-	-		
Smallpox	45	-		
Poliomyelitis	67	-		
Total	192	21		

APPENDIX B TABLE 2

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>No.on Roll</u>	<u>No.in- spected</u>	<u>Date of medical inspection</u>	<u>Children having milk</u>	<u>Children having dinner</u>	<u>Diphtheria/ Tetanus immunis- ation</u>	<u>Date of last dental inspect- ion</u>
Crewkerne Grammar	198	51	9.2.67	60.60%	89.89%	-	1.7.67
Crewkerne Infants'	197	125	14/15/16 6.67	91.37%	93.91%	50	1.3.67
Crewkerne Junior	231	107	18/19/20 4.67	84.41%	91.77%	54	23.6.67
Crewkerne Secondary Modern	368	92	13/15/16 2.67	35.86%	76.62%	-	5.12.67

APPENDIX C TABLE 1

Measles ... 10

Analysis of Cases Notified

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65+	Age Unknown
Measles		1	1	2	2	3			1				

Tuberculosis

Age Group	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1								
1 - 5								
5 -15								
15 -25								
25 -35								
35 -45								
45 -55								
55 -65								
65 +								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX C TABLE 2

Mass Radiography

Market Square Car Park, Crewkerne

20th-22nd September, 1967.

	Male	Female	Total
No. X-Rayed	350	411	761
Abnormalities detected	6	7	13
Being investigated	1	-	1
Active Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Healed	1	1	2
Non-Tuberculous Cases			
Benign Tumour	-	1	1
Dextro Cardia	1	1	2
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	-	2	2
Inflammatory	-	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1	4
Pulmonary Fibrosis	1	-	1
Analysis of Those Attending			
Contacts	1	-	1
Small Firms	248	261	509
Students	13	3	16
Schools Staff	8	25	33
Public	80	122	202
Previously Mass X-Rayed			621

Mass Radiography

Sterling Industries Ltd. 25th September, 1968.

	Male	Female	Total
No. X-Rayed	227	95	322
Abnormalities detected	6	2	8
Being investigated	-	-	-
Active Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Healed	1	-	1
Non-Tuberculous Cases			
Goitre	-	1	-
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	2	-	2
Bronchiectasis	1	1	2
Emphysema	1	-	1
Elevated Right Diaphragm	1	-	1

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

Factories Acts, 1957-1959

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Action 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, enforced by Local Authority.	5	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	30	28	-	-
(iii) Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	35	38	-	-

Cases in which defects were found	...	...	1
Cases in which defects found were remedied	...	...	1

Outworkers

No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 10	...	60
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APPENDIX D TABLE 2

Housing

1. No. of houses included in Clearance Area for which Orders are still to be made	Nil
2. No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957.	Nil
3. No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	Nil
4. No. of houses demolished or closed (a) under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 (individual unfits)	4
(b) for other purposes (road improvements etc).	Nil
5. No. of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	Nil
6. No. of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 (capable of repair)	Nil
7. No. of houses made fit during year	10
8. No. of unfit houses occupied under licence	Nil
9. Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Act, 1961)	Nil
10. Reconditioning of condemned houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken	Nil
11. Substitution of Closing Order for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken	Nil
12. Housing Act, 1964. Any action taken during year	Nil
13. Rent Acts I Certificates of Disrepair	Nil
(a) No. of applications received	Nil
(b) Certificates issued	Nil
II Certificates of Fair Rent	
(a) Certificates issued (if known)	Nil

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one
	For Slum Clearance	For other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For other Purposes		
Local Authority	-	20	-	28	Nil	-
Private Enterprise	-	30	-	16	Nil	1-

No. of Post War houses erected from 1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1967.	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
370	317

<u>Housing Programme</u> (As requested by Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 21/65) 68/69	(1) 8 old persons dwellings
	(2) 8 houses for general need
Programme forecast 68-69-70-71	69/70/71
	Unpredictable at present
(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied	(i) Prefabs Nil
	(ii) Huts, etc. Nil
(b) No. of houses found overcrowded	Nil

Houses required

(i) to replace houses scheduled for demolition	...	1
(ii) to abate overcrowding	...	Nil
(iii) for other purposes	...	Nil
(iv) Applications for Council houses at end of year		
(a) Urgent bona fide cases	...	6
(b) Applications for old people's dwellings	...	28
(c) Others	...	75
	Total applications	109
(v) Total number of Council houses sold during the year		Nil

	No. of Permanent Dwellings in District at 31.12.67	Gained from conversions and erected during 1967	Total (a) + (b)	Less houses Demolished, Closed, etc. during year	No. of Permanent Dwellings in District at 31.12.67 L.A. P.E.
	(a)	(b)			
Local Authority	460	20	480		480
Private Enter- prise	1,251	30	1,281	5	1,276
Totals	1,711		1,761		1,756

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

Total number erected to 31.12.67	Number in course of erection
With County Council Aid	With County Council Aid
Without County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
30	18
	-

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS(a) Discretionary

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during year:-

(1)	(2)
Received	Approved
Applications	Applications
No. of Dwellings	No. of Dwellings

- - - -

No. of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year -

Average cost per dwelling approved during year ... -

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority ... -

(b) Standard

1. No. of applications	(a) Received	11
	(b) Approved	11

2. No. of houses where standard amenities have been provided 12

No. of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year 8

Observations	2 above owner/occupiers	- 10
	tenants	- 2
		<u>12</u>

